



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

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Office of Inspector General

Enhancing Public Trust in Government

REDACTED

OLG Investigation
2012-0011
May 23, 2012

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Inspector General

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Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and
Advance Personal and Family Recovery



DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

David E. Wilkins
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Investigative Report
Case Number: 2012-0011



Christopher T. Hirst
Inspector General

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Children and Families (Department) contracts with Community-Based Care Provider¹ (CBC) Sarasota Family YMCA, Inc.² (YMCA) through contract #QJ2B0 (effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016). According to the contract, the YMCA is to provide foster care and related services in Manatee County (Circuit 12). To help provide those services, the YMCA subcontracts with Manatee Glens Corporation³ (MGC) under contract #MGCCM12 (effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012).

On January 31, 2012, MGC Director of Child Welfare Stefanie Babb reported to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) that on January 26, 2012, she was telephonically contacted by YMCA Director of Operations Monique Myers, who reported being contacted that date by former YMCA Director of Community Relations Kevin McKenney.⁴ Per Ms. Babb, Mr. McKenney told Ms. Myers that during a conversation with 19-year-old [REDACTED] (the Former Client), she (the Former Client) mentioned having a personal (sexual) relationship with MGC Independent Living⁵ Case Manager (CM) William Morland when she (the Former Client) was 17 years old and had been placed (no date provided) at Tampa Bay Academy⁶ (TBA). Additionally, the Former Client told Mr. McKenney not to worry about it (the relationship) because MGC CM Mentor Clarence Green had asked her about it and she (the Former Client) had lied and told Mr. Green it had not happened.

On January 26, 2012, Ms. Babb discussed this matter with Mr. Green, asking if he (Mr. Green) had any knowledge of an alleged sexual relationship between Mr. Morland and the Former Client, to which Mr. Green responded "Yes"; indicating that he had previously discussed it with his (Mr. Green's) supervisor MGC Case Manager Supervisor (CMS) John Kim and with Mr. Morland's supervisor MGC CMS Christina

¹ Community-Based Care (CBC) is a comprehensive redesign of Florida's Child Welfare System. It combines the outsourcing of foster care and related services to competent service agencies with an increased local community ownership of service delivery and design.

² According to their website, "Under the leadership of the Sarasota Family YMCA, the Safe Children Coalition (SCC) is a collaboration between the YMCA and many local community entities that together provide a continuum of child welfare services for dependent children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned."

³ According to their website, "Manatee Glens Corporation (MGC) is a not-for-profit provider of mental health and addiction services that also offers Child Welfare Services (foster care supervision)."

⁴ Per Ms. Babb, Mr. McKenney is no longer employed by the YMCA.

⁵ Per Rule 65C-31.001 (10), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), "Independent Living Benefit means any type of financial aid or service provided to eligible young adults pursuant to Section 409.1451(5), Florida Statutes. These benefits are categorized as either aftercare support services, transitional services, or the Road to Independence Scholarship."

⁶ The Tampa Bay Academy (TBA) was a treatment facility located in Riverview, FL (owned and operated by Youth and Family Centered Services, Austin, Texas), which closed in December 2010, after having its licenses revoked by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).

Williams-Brunning.⁷ Mr. Green claimed that a TBA therapist (no name provided) told him that Mr. Morland had returned the Former Client to TBA (no date provided; approximately a year and a half ago⁸) and on that same night, the Former Client was overheard having a telephone conversation with her (the Former Client's) mother and/or sister in Texas, during which the Former Client said she had sex with the man who brought her back to TBA (Mr. Morland). Ms. Babb further reported that Mr. Green claimed that the therapist confronted the Former Client and the Former Client denied any relationship with Mr. Morland. Ms. Babb continued by saying that Mr. Green also told her that he (Mr. Green) had questioned the Former Client about the alleged sexual encounter with Mr. Morland, to which the Former Client would neither confirm nor deny having sex with Mr. Morland.

On January 26, 2012, Ms. Babb met with Mr. Morland and MGC Independent Living Supervisor Brian Scott. After explaining the allegation, Mr. Morland claimed that it was not true and that he (Mr. Morland) had no idea why the Former Client would make up this type of allegation. Ms. Babb indicated that Mr. Morland felt he had helped the Former Client "quite a bit" and speculated that the Former Client made up this story because she was no longer receiving Road to Independence funds,⁹ since she moved to Texas.

Per Ms. Babb, effective January 30, 2012, Mr. Morland was placed on leave status. Additionally, Mr. Morland's access to the Florida Safe Families Network¹⁰ (FSFN) was suspended, effective February 2, 2012.

Based on the information provided by Ms. Babb, the OIG initiated an investigation.

ALLEGATIONS AND FINDINGS

Allegation 1

Manatee Glens Corporation Independent Living Case Manager William Morland had a sexual relationship with a client. If supported, the allegation would constitute a violation of Attachment I, B. 1. a.(6), YMCA Contract #QJ2B0; Article 4.6, 4.7, and 4.8, MGC Contract #MGCCM12; #IA 5.10.4 and #IA 5.70.1 MGC Policy Manual; and a potential violation of §749.05 (1), F.S.

Findings

The information obtained ***neither supports nor refutes*** the allegation.

⁷ Per Ms. Babb, neither Mr. Kim nor Ms. Williams-Brunning is currently employed by MGC. Additionally, Ms. Babb advised that TBA had been closed for over a year.

⁸ Later determined to be July 9, 2010.

⁹ The eligibility and application requirements for Road to Independence Scholarships are addresses in Rule 65C-31.004, F.A.C.

¹⁰ The Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) is Florida's federally funded Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and, as such, is the state's primary record for each investigation and case pursuant to Rule 65C-30.001 (134), F.A.C. The SACWIS contains all reports, investigations, and cases regarding child abuse, neglect or abandonment and pertinent information regarding all activities involved in investigative and case management functions.

Testimony of Manatee Glens Corporation Director of Child Welfare Stefanie Babb

Per Ms. Babb, the Florida Abuse Hotline¹¹ (Hotline) was notified regarding the alleged sexual encounter between Mr. Morland and the Former Client.¹² Ms. Babb also indicated that on January 27, 2012, Mr. McKenney, after re-contacting the Former Client, notified law enforcement and was told that the Former Client would need to be the reporter/victim.

Testimony of Former Sarasota Family YMCA, Inc. Director of Community Relations Kevin McKenney

Mr. McKenney related that on January 26, 2012, he received a telephone call from the Former Client referenced in FSFN case #2708235¹³ and FSFN case #100559424,¹⁴ who was complaining that the Independent Living staff was not being responsive to her (the Former Client's) requests for assistance. Additionally, Mr. McKenney advised that the Former Client was highly agitated because she (the Former Client) felt that the YMCA was withholding funds that she was entitled to.

After speaking with the Former Client on January 26, 2012, Mr. McKenney telephonically requested YMCA Independent Living Coordinator Tagarius Spikes to contact the Former Client regarding her (the Former Client's) concerns. Mr. McKenney said that Mr. Spikes was out of the office, so on that same day, he (Mr. McKenney) telephonically contacted the Former Client to advise her that Mr. Spikes would be calling in the near future and that during this conversation, the Former Client stated that the only person who had helped her was Mr. Morland. Mr. McKenney went on to say the Former Client then claimed to have had a "personal relationship" with Mr. Morland while she (the Former Client) was placed at either Manatee Palms¹⁵ or TBA.

Mr. McKenney said he questioned the Former Client about what she meant by "personal relationship," to which the Former Client responded by saying that she (the Former Client) stayed with Mr. Morland while on runaway status. Per Mr. McKenney, the Former Client said the relationship continued until Mr. Morland became her CM,¹⁶ and the Former Client told him (Mr. McKenney) not to worry about it because it had been "checked out" by her previous MGC CM, Mr. Green. Mr. McKenney continued by saying that the Former Client claimed she had lied to Mr. Green when he (Mr. Green) questioned her about having a relationship with Mr. Morland.

Mr. McKenney stated that on January 26, 2012, he reported the Former Client's comments to Ms. Myers and also left a voicemail message for YMCA Vice-President of

¹¹ The Florida Abuse Hotline serves as the central intake and referral point for all reports of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children, disabled adults, and the elderly.

¹² On January 27, 2012, FSFN Intake ID #2012-021283-01 was received by the Hotline, alleging that the Former Client had a sexual relationship with Mr. Morland. The January 28, 2012 Investigative Summary indicated that the case was being closed for non-jurisdiction based on the fact the Former Client is now 18 years old and no longer resides in the State of Florida. It further noted that the case was being referred to law enforcement for a criminal investigation.

¹³ The Former Client's FSFN Dependency case.

¹⁴ The Former Client's Independent Living case.

¹⁵ According to their website, "Manatee Palms is a residential treatment facility specializing in Trauma Informed Care for the treatment of children and adolescents suffering from psychiatric, behavioral and emotional disorders."

¹⁶ Per FSFN, Mr. Morland was the Former Client's CM from March 29, 2011 until October 11, 2011.

Community-Based Care Operations Ed McBride. Mr. McKenney related that on January 27, 2012, he re-contacted the Former Client in an attempt to determine the extent of the alleged personal relationship with Mr. Morland and that during this discussion, the Former Client claimed to have had sex with Mr. Morland while on runaway status.

Mr. McKenney advised that on January 27, 2012, he traveled to the Manatee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) to report the matter and met with a Detective Dwyer. Mr. McKenney stated that Detective Dwyer raised a jurisdictional question because he (Mr. McKenney) did not know Mr. Morland's home address. Per Mr. McKenney, Detective Dwyer determined from Mr. Morland's driver's license information that he (Mr. Morland) resided within the city limits of Bradenton, FL, and referred him (Mr. McKenney) to the Bradenton Police Department (BPD). Mr. McKenney went on to say that he went to BPD; however, they (BPD) declined to take a report, stating that the now adult Former Client needed to make the report.

Mr. McKenney confirmed that on January 27, 2012, he sent an e-mail to Ms. Myers, Mr. McBride, and Ms. Babb addressing the above cited sequence of events regarding the allegation made by the Former Client.

Testimony of Manatee Glens Corporation Mentor/Case Manager Clarence Green

Mr. Green acknowledged that he was the CM for the Former Client from 2009 (cannot recall exact date) until she reached the age of 18 years in 2011 (February 15, 2011). Mr. Green also advised that when the Former Client turned 18, she was placed on Mr. Morland's Independent Living caseload.

Mr. Green stated that he could not remember the date he first heard about Mr. Morland and the Former Client having a sexual relationship, but believes it would have been during the Summer of 2010. Mr. Green continued by saying that a therapist (Sharon, last name unknown) at TBA called and asked for the identity of the CM who had returned the Former Client to TBA. Mr. Green went on to say that he told Sharon that Mr. Morland had returned the Former Client to TBA, and that Sharon then told him (Mr. Green) the reason she asked was because the Former Client had been overheard by TBA night staff (no name provided) having a telephone conversation with a relative, during which the Former Client said she had sex with the man who brought her back to TBA. Per Mr. Green, Sharon said that the next day, she discussed the matter with the Former Client, who denied having a sexual encounter with Mr. Morland.

Mr. Green said he talked (cannot recall date) to the Former Client about the alleged sexual encounter and the Former Client would neither admit nor deny the allegation. Mr. Green indicated that the Former Client stated that she (the Former Client) "understands that this is William's job, and why would she do something like that, and if she did do something like that, why would she be talking about it."

Mr. Green said that on the same day he spoke with the Former Client, he reported this matter to Mr. Morland's supervisor (Ms. Williams-Brunning). Mr. Green stated that he

also told Ms. Williams-Brunning that the therapist had spoken to the Former Client and the Former Client had denied having a sexual encounter with Mr. Morland. Mr. Green went on to say that Ms. Williams-Brunning met with him and Mr. Morland and that during the meeting, Mr. Morland denied the allegation, saying that it never happened.

Testimony of the Former Client

In response to attempts by the OIG Investigator to contact the Former Client, she telephonically contacted the OIG Investigator. During this telephone conversation, the OIG Investigator began to explain the YMCA and MGC relationship as it pertained to the OIG complaint, at which time the Former Client said there was no need to explain, saying, "I was raised in it."

The OIG Investigator began to ask the Former Client about her complaint to Mr. McKenney regarding a sexual relationship with Mr. Morland, when the Former Client stated, "I fu__ed the man. I voluntarily fu__ed the man. I told you I fu__ed the man, so quit bothering my phone."

While the OIG Investigator was asking the Former Client if she had ever reported this to law enforcement or planned on reporting it to law enforcement, the Former Client hung up her cellular telephone.¹⁷

Testimony of Manatee Glens Corporation Independent Living Case Manager William Morland

Mr. Morland advised that he is 28 years old and that he has been employed by MGC since September 21, 2009. Mr. Morland indicated that he works in the Independent Living Program at MGC; working with young adults between 18 years and 23 years of age. Per Mr. Morland, these young adults are former foster children who have "aged out" of foster care.

Mr. Morland indicated that he is familiar with the Former Client and stated that he was her CM from shortly after she aged out of foster care in early 2011 until she moved to Texas in October 2011 to reunite with her (the Former Client's) mother. Mr. Morland went on to say that the YMCA paid for the Former Client's bus ticket to Texas, and mentioned that the Former Client was pregnant and wanted to reunite with her (the Former Client's) mother prior to giving birth.

Mr. Morland related that he first met the Former Client in 2010 while "shadowing"¹⁸ her (the Former Client's) MGC CM (Mr. Green). Mr. Morland recalled that he and Mr. Green visited the Former Client at Manatee Palms. Mr. Morland stated that all his dealings with the Former Client have been of a professional nature while working, and that he has never had a personal "off the clock" relationship with the Former Client.

¹⁷ Per MCSO Detective Jaime Rivera, the Former Client was uncooperative and hung up on him. The MCSO case (#2012-003554) "was closed with no charges because the victim [the Former Client] refused to prosecute and cooperate in the investigation."

¹⁸ Job shadowing is a career exploration activity that offers an opportunity to spend time with a professional currently working in a person's career field of interest.

Mr. Morland acknowledged that he has in the past been alone with the Former Client; however, he reiterated that all of his dealings with the Former Client were professional in nature. Mr. Morland offered examples, such as transporting the Former Client to the Woman, Infants, and Children¹⁹ (WIC) office and to Mothers Helping Mothers,²⁰ as well as quarterly home visits. Mr. Morland went on to say that all of his dealings with the Former Client are documented in FSFN.

Mr. Morland adamantly denied any sexual contact with the Former Client, saying that he has never touched the Former Client "because I know she lies." Mr. Morland continued by saying that in the Summer of 2010, he was told by Mr. Green that while the Former Client was at TBA, a therapist overheard her (the Former Client) talking to someone on the telephone, saying that she (the Former Client) liked him (Mr. Morland) and that they (the Former Client and Mr. Morland) had a sexual encounter. Mr. Morland went on to say that Mr. Green also told him that he (Mr. Green) had questioned the Former Client about the alleged sexual encounter and the Former Client would neither admit to nor deny the alleged encounter.

Mr. Morland indicated that Mr. Green also reported the Former Client's alleged telephone comments to his (Mr. Morland's) former supervisor Ms. Williams-Brunning. Mr. Morland said that he met (no date provided) with Mr. Green and Ms. Williams-Brunning, during which Ms. Williams-Brunning verbally told him to avoid contact with and to stay away from the Former Client, because when he (Mr. Morland) asked the Former Client about the alleged telephone comments, the Former Client denied saying "anything like that," and said, "It didn't happen."

Mr. Morland said that a year went by and the Former Client "ages out" and told Mr. Green that she (the Former Client) would like to have him (Mr. Morland) as her Independent Living CM. Mr. Morland indicated that he told Mr. Green that he (Mr. Morland) did not feel comfortable having the Former Client on his caseload, but to "make a long story short, I did, I became her case worker, but everything I've done was professional with her. Never anything sexual."

Having the 2010 incident in mind, as well as Ms. Williams-Brunning's verbal instructions, the OIG Investigator asked Mr. Morland why he would accept the Former Client on his caseload. Mr. Morland responded that he had a new supervisor (Mr. Scott), a year went by with no problems, and the Former Client had said to him (Mr. Morland) that it did not happen, so he decided to give the Former Client "the benefit of the doubt."

¹⁹ According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) website, Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) "provides Federal grants to States for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk."

²⁰ According to their website, "since 1990, Mothers Helping Mothers, Inc., an all volunteer not-for-profit organization, has been providing basic necessities [sic] such as clothing and baby items to families in need."

Mr. Morland speculated that the Former Client called in the current complaint about the alleged 2010 sexual encounter because she is angry that her financial assistance ended and that her case was closed when she (the Former Client) moved to Texas.

Mr. Morland acknowledged meeting with Mr. Scott and Ms. Babb on January 26, 2012 to discuss this matter, and telling Ms. Babb "this is evil," and that he "would never do anything like that to jeopardize my character, who I am in the community, and my job." Mr. Morland said that he also told Ms. Babb that the accusation was a lie.

CASELOAD INFORMATION

MGC Director of Child Welfare Stefanie Babb advised that at the time Mr. Morland went on leave status (January 30, 2012), his (Mr. Morland's) caseload consisted of 26 cases involving 26 young adults. Per Ms. Babb, Mr. Morland's caseload was being maintained by Mr. Scott and no additional complaints had been received.

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S COMMENTS

The information obtained *neither supports nor refutes* the allegation that Manatee Glens Corporation Independent Living Case Manager William Morland had a sexual relationship with a client. The Former Client claimed to have had consensual sex with Mr. Morland; however, she offered no corroboration. Mr. Morland denied the allegation and also offered no corroboration.

It is recommended that the SunCoast Regional Managing Director review the findings of this investigation, provide a copy of this report to the management of the Sarasota Family YMCA, Inc. and Manatee Glens Corporation, and request that the findings of this investigation be annotated in Mr. Morland's personnel file(s).

No additional actions are warranted.

In compliance with §20.055(6)(e), Florida Statutes, a copy of this report was provided to Mr. Morland on April 20, 2012. No response was received from Mr. Morland.

This investigation has been conducted in accordance with the ASSOCIATION OF INSPECTORS GENERAL Principles & Quality Standards for Investigations.